A total of Rs. 36501.01 crore has been allocated till date for payment of fertilizer subsidy against the estimated total requirement of Rs. 45659.40 crore in the current year.

The subsidy is released to the manufacturers/importers on sale of fertilizers and thus benefit to the farmers in each State of the country from the present fertilizer subsidy accrues in proportion of their consumption of fertilizers within the State.

Fall in prices of drugs due to introduction of fixed margins on generic drugs

1199. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of more than half of all drugs have come down by 50 per cent with effect from 2nd October, 2007 with the introduction of fixed margins on generic drugs for wholesalers and retailers and his Ministry and the industry have also agreed that the upper limit price for drugs would be kept outside price control at Rs. 3 a tablet and drugs priced more than Rs.3 per tablet would come under price control; and

(b) whether Government has also set up a 14 member committee consisting of his Ministry and representatives of industry to look into the different aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Fixed margins on generic drugs for wholesalers and retailers have not been introduced/notified so far by the Government. Under para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995), 16% margin to retailer is allowed in respect of Scheduled formulations. Fixation/revision of prices of Scheduled bulk drugs and formulations based thereon is an ongoing exercise undertaken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under provisions of DPCO, 1995. There is no agreement between the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the drug industry that the upper limit price for drugs would be kept outside price control at Rs.3 a tablet and drugs priced more than Rs. 3 per tablet would come under price control.

(b) Yes, Madam. A Joint Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary (C&PC) consisting of officials of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and representatives of drug industry was constituted in August, 2006 to look into certain issues and this Committee has since submitted its report to the Government on 30-11-2006.

Investment in PCPIRs

1200. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to invest Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 10,000 crores in the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) and if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some States have set their propoals, for investment in this regard, and if so, the names of these States, the amount proposed to be invested by them and the decision taken on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Cabinet has recently approved

the Policy for setting up of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs), and the same has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1 dated 4th April, 2007) and is also placed on the website of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals *viz. www.chemicals.nic.in.* The State Government would play a lead role in setting up of the PCPIR and prepare a project proposal for an identified site. The Central Government will consider and approve applications form the State Governments for establishment of PCIPRs in terms of this policy and also facilitate availability of external physical infrastructure linkages including rail, road, ports, and airports. Similarly, the State Government, applying for a PCPIR, will ensure that all physical infrastructure and utilities linkages under its jurisdiction are provided to the site.

The following four proposals have been received for hosting PCPIRs.

(i) Proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for hosting a PCPIR at Vishakhapattnam-Kakinada-Rajamundry within the Vishakhapattnam and East Godavari Districts.

(ii) Proposal from the Government of Karnataka for hosting a PCPIR within the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka.

(iii) Proposal from the Government of Gujarat for hosting a PCPIR at Dahej spread over the blocks of Vagra and Bharuch of South Gujarat.

(iv) Proposal from the Government of West Bengal for hosting a PCPIR at Haldia spread over the Haldia Municipal Corporation and Nayachar Islands in Purba Medinipur.

The investment requirements of a PCPIR will depend on its location and other factors which will include the availability of existing infrastructure and the details in the project proposal. The investment details will vary from place to place and are to be concurred to by the concerned departments of the Government of India and the State Government. Exact quantification of investment would depend on the proposed specific details.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana in Goa

1201. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the number of families covered under the scheme, in the State, so far; and

(c) the foodgrains supplied till this date alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the total targeted 0.184 lakh AAY families, the number of AAY families covered under the scheme, in the State upto 31-10-2007 is 0.145 lakh (14,500).

(c) Statement showing allocation and offtake of foodgrains for AAY under TPDS in Goa for the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 (upto September) is given below:—